distributed during 2005-06 in Maharashtra and similarly 231 coir artisans were trained and 100 ratts. were distributed during 2006-07.

(vii) Modernisation of Extraction and Processing of Coir Fibre, through the Coir Board, for intensification of research and development efforts for introducing new technology for extraction and processing of coir fibre, development of machinery, product diversification, introduction of new products, etc.

Setting up of khadi and village industries in NER

2097. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of units set up in NER particularly in the State of Sikkim by Khadi and Village Industries Commission during the last three years;

(b) the details of job opportunities created in the region by setting up of such units during this period; and

(c) whether any target has been fixed to set up new industries in Sikkim during the year 2007-08 and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) does not set up village industry (VI) units of its own. VI units are set up under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) by eligible entrepreneurs in various parts of the country, including North-Eastern Region (NER). For this purpose, margin money assistance is provided to the entrepreneurs by the Government through the KVIC and loans are made available by banks. The number of units set up under the REGP in NER, including Sikkim, during the last three years, is given below:

Sl. No.	States	Number of units set up under REGP in NER		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	43	76	88
2.	Assam	1658	2229	1599
3.	Manipur	102	65	139
4.	Meghalaya	146	206	165
5.	Mizoram	162	365	990
6.	Nagaland	151	316	156
7.	Tripura	233	306	212
8.	Sikkim	139	106	89
	TOTAL NER:	2634	3669	3438

(b) The estimated additional employment opportunities generated under REGP in NER, including Sikkim during the last three years, are given below:

Sl. No.	States	Additional employment opportunities generated under REGP in NER		
		2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1219	1857	2106
2.	Assam	25768	49595	30912
3.	Manipur	1313	416	1881
4.	Meghalaya	3789	1962	2174
5.	Mizoram	5180	18255	16455
6.	Nagaland	3851	5549	3358
7.	Tripura	3994	5616	5851
8.	Sikkim	3227	1750	2208
	TOTAL NER:	48341	85000	64945

(c) KVIC has set a target for assisting the setting up of 122 village industry units under REGP during 2007-08 in Sikkim, as detailed below:

Industry Group	Number of projects	Targeted Employment (Number of persons)
Food and agro based industrry	49	925
Forest based industry	6	116
Handmade paper/fibre	6	116
Mineral based industry	18	347
Polymer and chemical based industry	6	116
Rural Engineering and biotechnology	25	462
Service/Textile	12	230
TOTAL:	122	2312

Village industries

2098. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a target to set up 31,800 village industries in the country during 2006-07;

(b) if so, the number of village industries which were proposed to be set up in Andhra Pradesh in 2006-07;

(c) the number of village industries set up in the first ten months in Andhra Pradesh;